

REMARKS

Formal Matters

Claims 1 and 3-13 constitute all currently pending claims in the application. The Examiner incorrectly indicates that canceled claim 2 is pending and rejected on the Form PTOL-326. Applicant respectfully requests a corrected indication of claim status in the next PTO communication.

The Examiner does not indicate that the drawings filed with the application on August 18, 2004 have been accepted. Applicant respectfully requests an indication of acceptance of the drawings in the next PTO communication.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 3-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,637,853 to Ahne et al. (“Ahne”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,082,911 to Murakami (“Murakami”). Applicant traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Independent claims 1 and 8-12 are amended to require that the print head is returned to the reference position after printing the first reference pattern, and that the print head is moved from the reference position to a position for printing a second reference pattern. Ahne fails to teach or suggest these elements of amended claims 1 and 8-12.

Moreover, Murakami does not appear to make up for these deficiencies of Ahne, as Murakami is cited merely for its alleged teaching of (1) printing a reference pattern while a set amount is changed; (2) correcting a print start position of the print head with a correction amount determined according to a relationship between the first and second reference patterns; and (3)

correcting a print start position in accordance with a set amount of a line segment closest to the other reference pattern.

Thus, Ahne and Murakami, alone or in combination, do not appear to teach or suggest each and every element of claims 1 and 8-12. The cited references, therefore, fail to render claims 1 and 8-12 unpatentable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claims 1 and 8-12, and their dependent claims 3-7 and 13.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant herewith petitions the Director of the USPTO to extend the time for reply to the above-identified Office Action for an appropriate length of time if necessary. Unless a check is attached, any fee due under 37 U.S.C. § 1.17(a) is being paid via the USPTO Electronic Filing System (EFS). The USPTO is also directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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